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SPECIFICATION

Delete the paragraph at page 7, line 8 to page 8, line 4, and insert in its place:

Figure 1 shows an advantageous embodiment of the invention. A monitoring system 1 in accordance with the invention through a network (inter-/intranet) 2, if so required from different points 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, monitors any services on a host 4 with the help of a central service, which in preference is operated by means of a central system 5. Test configurations, test programs, for example in the form of plugins in accordance with the invention, and also test results are in preference stored in a data bank 15, which here is situated in the region of the central system 5. On the central system 5 a program is running, which periodically and/or aperiodically, executes predefined or random test configurations, e.g., for monitoring purposes, or on a one-off basis causes them to be executed through many instances/channels 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 in parallel, e.g., as a load test. The central system 5, however, as a rule does not execute these tests itself, but rather transmits test programs and test configurations to means 20 especially foreseen for this, here probes (computers) 11.1, 1 1.2, 1 1.3. These are in preference situated at separate locations in a network 2, e.g., at providers, in a computing centre, etc. As a rule, the transmission simultaneously takes place to several probes (schematically illustrated by arrow 13.1, 13.2, 13.3). These execute one or several tests and transmit results dependent on the location to a central system. This 25 can be the same central system or a different one. The central system 5 (or if so required also one or several probes 11.1, 11.2, 11.3) analyses and stores the results and if necessary orders further reactions (e.g., triggers an alarm). In the case of the method in accordance with the invention, a plugin (14.1, 14.2, 14.3) is caused to be executed by being transmitted through a network (2) to at least one computer (11.1, 11.2, 1 1.3). The plugin (14.1, 14.2, 14.3) subsequently orders the at last one computer (1 1.1, 1 1.2, 1 1.3) to cause the plugin (14.1, 14.2, 14.3) to be executed.